

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1350, Individuals with Disabilities Act.

The House passed H.R. 4275, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket.

The House passed H.R. 4281, Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5383–S5486*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2415–2423, and S. Res. 360–362. **Page S5472**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 2238, to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to reduce losses to properties for which repetitive flood insurance claim payments have been made, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 108–262)

S. 1164, to provide for the development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand, assess, and predict human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change. (S. Rept. No. 108–263)

S. 1721, to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to improve provisions relating to probate of trust and restricted land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–264)

S. Res. 331, designating June 2004 as “National Safety Month”.

S. 1609, to make aliens ineligible to receive visas and exclude aliens from admission into the United States for nonpayment of child support, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5472**

#### Measures Passed:

**IDEA Reauthorization:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1350, to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and by 95 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 94), Senate passed the bill, after striking all after the enacting clause

and inserting in lieu thereof, the text of S. 1248, Senate companion measure, and after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

**Pages S5394–S5411**

#### Adopted:

Gregg/Kennedy Amendment No. 3150, to provide a manager’s amendment. **Page S5394**

Gregg (for Santorum) Modified Amendment No. 3149, to provide for a paperwork reduction demonstration. **Pages S5406–10**

Subsequently, S. 1248 was returned to the calendar. **Page S5411**

**Department of Defense Authorization Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of S. 2400, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, at 2:30 p.m., on Monday, May 17, 2004. **Page S5485**

**Service Medals Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, at a time determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Democratic Leader, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 3104, to provide for the establishment of separate campaign medals to be awarded to members of the uniformed services who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom and to members of the uniformed services who participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom, on Tuesday, May 18, 2004, and that there be 20 minutes for debate and Senate then vote on final passage of the bill.

**Page S5485**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Linda Mysliwy Conlin, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2007.

Linda Morrison Combs, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

John O. Colvin, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years. (Reappointment)

Cynthia G. Efird, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola.

Tom C. Korologos, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Belgium.

Eugene Hickok, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

Edward R. McPherson, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Education.

20 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

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**Messages From the House:** Page S5471

**Measures Referred:** Page S5471

**Executive Communications:** Pages S5471–72

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Page S5472

**Additional Cosponsors:** Pages S5472–73

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** Pages S5473–84

**Additional Statements:** Pages S5468–71

**Amendments Submitted:** Page S5484

**Authority for Committees to Meet:** Pages S5484–85

**Privilege of the Floor:** Page S5485

**Text of H.R. 1350, as Previously Passed:** Pages S5411–51

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—94) Page S5411

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:22 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, May 14, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5485.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION REGULATORY ISSUES

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Commodity Futures Trading Commission regulatory issues, focusing on how the markets have evolved in response

to the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, after receiving testimony from James E. Newsome, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

### CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the contingency reserve fund request for fiscal year 2005, after receiving testimony from Paul D. Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary, and Larry Lanzillotta, Acting Under Secretary (Comptroller), both of the Department of Defense; General Peter Pace, USMC, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Joel D. Kaplan, Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget.

### CONTRACTING IN IRAQ

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine acquisition policy issues in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Tina Ballard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement; Major General Carl Strock, USA, Director of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Major General Wade H. McManus, Jr., USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Field Support Command.

### DOD TASK FORCE

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on the Report of the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault from Ellen P. Embrey, Deputy Assistant for Force Health Protection and Readiness, and David S.C. Chu, Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, both of the Department of Defense.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Major General David H. Petraeus, USA, to be lieutenant general and Chief, Office of Security Transition—Iraq.

### IMPACT OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space concluded a hearing to examine social science data on the impact of marriage and divorce on children, focusing on marital education, trends in cohabitation, and out-of-wedlock births, after receiving testimony from Gordon Berlin, MDRC, Inc., New York, New York; Steven L. Nock, University of Virginia Department of Sociology, Charlottesville; Nicholas Zill,

Westat, Inc., Rockville, Maryland; Gerald L. Campbell, Impact Group, Inc., Oakton, Virginia; and Patrick F. Fagan, Heritage Foundation, and Margy Waller, Brookings Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

#### **MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANK CORRUPTION**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating corruption in the multilateral development banks, focusing on improving governance, increasing transparency and combating corruption, after receiving testimony from Carole Brookins, The World Bank, Hector Morales, Inter-American Development Bank, Manish Bapna, Bank Information Center, Nancy Zucker Boswell, Transparency International—USA, and Jerome I. Levinson, American University Washington College of Law, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jeffrey A. Winters, Northwestern University Department of Politics, Evanston, Illinois.

#### **TRADE AND TOURISM IN A TIME OF TERRORISM**

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on European Affairs concluded a hearing to examine challenges and accomplishments as the European Union and the United States promote trade and tourism in a terrorism environment, after receiving testimony from Stewart Verdery, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security; Jonathan Faull, Director General, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium; Bill Connors, National Business Travel Association, Alexandria, Virginia; and Christopher L. Koch, World Shipping Council, Washington, D.C.

#### **RAISING PREMATURE BABIES**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Subcommittee on Children and Families concluded a hearing to examine causes, research and prevention of premature births, after receiving testimony from Duane F. Alexander, Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Peter C. Van Dyck, Associate Administrator for Child and Maternal Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Eve Lackritz, Chief, Maternal and Infant Health

Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of the Department of Health and Human Services; Jennifer L. Howse, March of Dimes, White Plains, New York; Charles J. Lockwood, Yale University Medical School Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, New Haven, Connecticut; and Kelly Bolton Jordon, Memphis, Tennessee.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights ordered favorably reported to the full Committee, S.J. Res. 23, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the event that one-fourth of the members of either the House of Representatives or the Senate are killed or incapacitated, with an amendment.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1609, to make aliens ineligible to receive visas and exclude aliens from admission into the United States for nonpayment of child support, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 331, designating June 2004 as “National Safety Month”.

Also, Committee began consideration of S. 1735, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to reform and facilitate prosecution of juvenile gang members who commit violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, but did not complete action thereon.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Measures Introduced:** 12 public bills, H.R. 4358–4369; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 422–426, and H. Res. 642, were introduced.

**Pages H3015–16**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H3016–17**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2729, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for greater efficiency at the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, amended (H. Rept. 108–486);

H.R. 2728, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for adjudicative flexibility with regard to an employer filing of a notice of contest following the issuance of a citation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended (H. Rept. 108–487);

H.R. 2730, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for an independent review of citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended, referred sequentially to the House Committee on the Judiciary for a period ending not later than May 17, 2004 for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X. (H. Rept. 108–488, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 2731, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for the award of attorney's fees and costs to very small employers when they prevail in litigation prompted by the issuance of citations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, amended, referred sequentially to the House Committee on the Judiciary for a period ending not later than May 17, 2004 for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X. (H. Rept. 108–489, Pt. 1).

**Pages H3014–15**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered today by Rev. Dr. Larry D. Pickens, Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church in Elgin, Illinois.

**Page H2921**

**50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision:** The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 414, expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of Brown, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 176.

**Pages H2925–33, H2987–88**

The measure was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached on Wednesday, May 12.

**Permanent Extension of 10-Percent Individual Income Tax Rate Bracket bill:** The House passed

H.R. 4275, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket, by a recorded vote of 344 yeas to 76 noes, Roll No. 170. **Pages H2933–49**

Rejected the Tanner amendment in the nature of a substitute, printed in H. Rept 108–483, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 227 nays, Roll No. 169.

**Pages H2941–49**

H. Res. 637, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to on Wednesday, May 12.

**Budget Resolution for FY 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees:** The House rejected the Pomeroy motion to instruct conferees on S. Con. Res. 95, original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 171.

**Pages H2949–50**

**Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2004:** The House passed H.R. 4281, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 162 nays and one voting "present", Roll No. 174.

**Pages H2951–86**

Rejected the McCarthy motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 196 yeas to 218 noes, Roll No. 173.

**Pages H2984–86**

Rejected the Kind amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–484, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 193 yeas to 224 nays, Roll No. 172.

**Pages H2976–84**

H. Res. 638, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed on Wednesday, May 12.

Pursuant to section 4 of H. Res. 638, the text of H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 will be appended to the engrossment of H.R. 4279, and H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281 shall be laid on the table.

**Page H2986**

Also pursuant to section 4 of H. Res. 638, the title of H.R. 4279 is conformed to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 4280 and H.R. 4281. Conformed so as to read: to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, and to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees.

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, May 11:

*Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944:* H.J. Res. 91, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 175.

Pages H2986–87

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 17 for morning hour debate and further, that when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18 for morning hour debate as though after May 31, 2004, thereafter to resume its session at 10 a.m. Page H2990

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, May 19. Page H2990

**Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group—Appointments:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Representatives Kolbe (Chairman), Ballenger (Vice Chairman), Dreier, Barton (TX), Manzullo, Weller, and Stenholm. Page H2990

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2921.

**Senate Referral:** S. Con. Res. 107 was held at the desk and S. Con. Res. 108 was referred to the Committee on Energy & Commerce. Page H3014

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Six yeas-and-nays votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2948–49, H2949, H2950, H2984, H2985–86, H2986, H2986–87, and H2987–88. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on Millennium Challenge Corporation. Testimony was heard from Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State; and Paul Applegarth, CEO, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

### IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2004

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R.

4278, Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004.

### EXAMINING THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ACT AND ITS BENEFITS FOR WORKERS

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled "Examining the Federal Employees' Compensation Act and Its Benefits for Workers." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Labor: Shelby Hallmark, Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs; and Elliot Lewis, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; and public witnesses.

### "THE US-EU REGULATORY DIALOGUE AND ITS FUTURE"

*Committee on Financial Services:* Held a hearing entitled "The US-EU Regulatory Dialogue and Its Future." Testimony was heard from Randal Quarles, Assistant Secretary, International Affairs, Department of the Treasury; Ethiopia Tafara, Director, Office of International Affairs, SEC; Susan Bies, Governor, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

### HARNESSING SCIENCE

*Committee on Government Reform:* Held a hearing entitled "Harnessing Science: Advancing Care by Accelerating the Rate of Cancer Clinical Trial Participation." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Michael Christian, M.D., Associate Director, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, National Cancer Institute; and Richard Pazdur, M.D., Director, Division of Oncology Drug Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA; and public witnesses.

### IRAQ—TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY

*Committee on International Relations:* Held a hearing on The Imminent Transfer of Sovereignty in Iraq. Testimony was heard from Marc Grossman, Under Secretary, Political Affairs, Department of State; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Stephen A. Cambone, Under Secretary, Intelligence; Peter Rodman, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs; and LTG Walter L. Sharp, USA, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, The Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on H.R. 3220, Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2003. Testimony was heard from Jamie Van Fossen, Representative, State of Iowa; Rick Clayburgh, Tax Commissioner, State of North Dakota; and public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution approved for full Committee action the following measures: H.J. Res. 568, amended, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Judicial determinations regarding the meaning of the laws of the United States should not be based on judgments, laws, or pronouncements of foreign institutions unless such foreign judgments, laws, or pronouncements inform an understanding of the original meaning of the laws of the United States; and H.R. 1775, To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate the oak tree as the national tree of the United States.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on H.J. Res. 56, Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage. Testimony was heard from Representatives Musgrave and Frank; and public witnesses.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 3433, To transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior; H.R. 3479, Brown Tress Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003; H.R. 4027, To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Virginia Key, Florida, for use by the University for a Marine Life Science Center; and H.R. 4158, To provide for the conveyance to the Government of Mexico of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ros-Lehtinen, Emerson and Case; the following officials of the Department of the Interior: James Tate, Jr., Science Advisor to the Secretary; and William Hartwig, Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the following officials of the USDA: William Clay, Deputy Administrator of Wildlife Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and Christopher Pyron, Deputy Chief, Business Operations, Forest Service; the following officials of Guam: Felix P. Camacho, Governor; and Senator Tiana Muna Barnes; Pedro A. Tenorio, Resident Representative to the United States, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and a public witness.

**OVERSIGHT—FIREFIGHTING PREPAREDNESS**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held an oversight hearing entitled "Firefighting Preparedness: Are we ready for the 2004 Wildlife Season?" Testimony was heard from Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Sec-

retary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior; Ellen Engleman Connors, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; and James B. Hull, Forester, Forest Service, State of Texas and Co-Chair, Blue Ribbon Panel on Federal Aerial Firefighting.

**FEDERAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING R&D**

*Committee on Science:* Held a hearing to examine federal high-performance computing research and development activities and to consider H.R. 4218, High-Performance Computing Revitalization Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; and public witnesses.

**OVERSIGHT—FAA's AIR TRAFFIC ORGANIZATION**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Aviation held an oversight hearing on Avoiding Summer Delays and a Review of the FAA's Air Traffic Organization. Testimony was heard from Stephen J. McHale, Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and the following officials of the FAA, Department of Transportation: Marion C. Blakey, Administrator; and Russell G. Chew, Chief Operating Officer.

**OVERSIGHT—ACTS OF TERROR—PREPAREDNESS AND FIRST RESPONDER FUNDING**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held an oversight hearing on How to Best Prepare for Acts of Terror: National Preparedness and First Responder Funding. Testimony was heard from William O. Jenkins, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, GAO; Andrew Mitchell, Deputy Director, Office of Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security; and George W. Foresman, Assistant to the Governor, Preparedness, State of Virginia.

**VETERANS LEGISLATION**

*Committee on Veterans Affairs:* Subcommittee on Benefits approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 1716, amended, Veterans Earn and Learn Act; H.R. 3936, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation; H.R. 4175, amended, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004; and H.R. 4345, To amend title 38, United

States Code, to increase the maximum amount of home loan guaranty available under the home loan guaranty program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### VETERANS LEGISLATION

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 4231, Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2004; and H.R. 4248, Homeless Veterans Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2004.

#### FEDERAL CHILD WELFARE REVIEWS— STATE EFFORTS TO COMPLY

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing on State Efforts to Comply with Federal Child Welfare Reviews. Testimony was heard from Wade F. Horn, Assistant Secretary, Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; Cornelia M. Ashby, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO; Edward Cotton, Director, Division of Youth and Family Services, Department of Human Services, State of New Jersey; and Christopher J. McCabe, Secretary, Department of Human Resources, State of Maryland.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT INTELLIGENCE BUDGET

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to hold a hearing on Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Budget. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

#### INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security held a hearing on Intelligence Community Language Capabilities. Testimony was heard from COL Michael R. Simone, USA, Commandant, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Department of Defense; Richard Brecht, Executive Director, Center for Advanced Study of Language; and

Ellen Laipson, President and CEO, Henry L. Stimson Center.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY SHARING

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security met in executive session to hold a hearing on Information Technology Policy Sharing. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

### *Joint Meetings*

#### HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the costs of health services regulations, focusing on quality and accessibility to health care insurance, the uninsured, and ways that health care coverage can be made more affordable, after receiving testimony from David A. Hyman, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore; Daniel Mulholland, Harty, Springer, and Mattern, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Vicki Gottlich, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Christopher J. Conover, Durham, North Carolina.

#### COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT

*Conferees* met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2443, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again.

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

##### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

##### House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

## Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 p.m., Friday, May 14

## Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Monday, May 17

## Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

## House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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